

CARO mag

Companion Animal Responsible Ownership

Focus on examples promoting responsible ownership

Dogs

The OIE regional awareness campaign on stray dog population control in the Balkan countries

Cats

The World Cat Day "Spayathon" of FOUR PAWS Switzerland for sterilising farm cats in the canton of Fribourg

Highlight

The Pet Deception

FOUR PAWS' new campaign

SPECIAL FOCUS

Dog and Cat movement

Overview of the dog and cat market, the VIER PFOTEN Report and Conference on Identification, Vaccination and Movement of companion animals in Europe, the new VIER PFOTEN campaign on online trade of companion animals...

IMPRINT

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INTRODUCTION: THE **DOG** AND **CAT** MARKET

From 1 March to the end of 2016, the CARO platform is exploring the issues and complexities of the trade in cats and dogs as companion animals. In parallel, FOUR PAWS has initiated a campaign on the online trade in companion animals.

The way in which puppies and kittens are bred and sold has undergone a number of significant changes over the last decade. These changes have arisen from a huge growth in the demand for pedigree/designer dogs and cats, creating a market economy for these animals. This has transformed the way in which these animals are produced and supplied, often involving unscrupulous and illegal breeders and dealers across Europe.

The puppy and kitten market today is unbalanced and not properly regulated, and any regulations in place are often not enforced. This is clearly leading to serious animal welfare and health concerns, consumer protection issues, unfair competition and illegal activities.

This situation has been exacerbated by the relaxation of the quarantine rules with regard to dogs being transported across EU borders and by the introduction of the non-commercial movement scheme. Besides the growth in puppy farms in Eastern Europe and Ireland to supply this

demand, there are now more and more smaller-scale unlicensed private breeders and dealers across Europe who are profiting from this market and the growing demand for designer puppies and kittens. This demand is being driven by a society heavily influenced by fashion fads and a celebrity culture in which animals are being bought to project a desired image, status or trend, rather than being motivated by forces that favour the animals' long-term welfare. This, along with a growth in the marketing and selling of puppies and kittens online, has contributed to increasing concerns that animals are being bought on impulse and becoming victims of a throwaway society. The wastage rate of dogs and cats bought on impulse through abandonment or relinquishment appears now to be as much a matter of overdemand as of oversupply. The way in which these animals are featured in advertising, films and online seems only to compound the overdemand situation, with the result that many shelters now struggle to cope with the

number of dogs and cats requiring rescue places.

Demand-linked breeding of pets tends to be a moneymaking business, with many licensed and unlicensed breeders producing animals only to make a profit. Costs are kept to a minimum wherever possible, leading to poorly bred animals suffering from hereditary diseases and behavioural problems. The huge influx of puppies bred specifically for the western European market has led to intense competition, poor and inhumane breeding practices (particularly on unregulated puppy farms) and an enormous increase in cross-border transportation through the Pet Passport and the commercial pet movement schemes.

Puppies or kittens produced in this way are generally sold online once they arrive at their final destination, at highly competitive prices, which reputable professional breeders are unable to match. This creates unfair competition within the EU. Furthermore, the sale of these animals often ignores the suitability of pets and the ability of the prospective owners to take care of them. This may lead to animals being bought on impulse and then resold, relinquished or abandoned. The general public, unaware of the issues of buying online, are fuelling this demand, believing that they have bought a puppy or kitten that has been responsibly 'home' bred. However, there is a high probability that they have purchased an animal that has been imported, that has been poorly bred, and that will eventually cost them more financially and emotionally as a result of requiring expensive veterinary treatment.

Existing legislation is inadequate to address the situation, and poor enforcement and lack of harmonisation of legislation across the EU Member States have meant that unscrupulous breeders and sellers are profiting from this trade with few or no consequences. These breeders and sellers are becoming far more sophisticated, often supported by criminal networks and exploiting the market by using loopholes in the legal trade mechanisms such as the non-commercial and commercial movement schemes. In addition, the huge growth in Internet sales of pets has meant that these sellers and dealers are able to sell anonymously (by not having to verify their identity with classified ad sites), creating a haven for illegal activities and resulting in poor animal welfare.

DOG AND CAT MARKET

NATIONAL PROFILES

The dog and cat market can vary significantly depending on the country considered, because each country has its own history and ethical values regarding companion animals. These influence the adoption and buying habits of citizens, as well as their behaviour towards their animals. Here are a few examples chosen from the countries most involved in the dog/cat markets.

AUSTRIA



Rabies-free since 1995
Derogation to rabies vaccination (EU+imports)

Mandatory I&R since 2010
700,000 owned dogs
Unknown number of dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
3 registered native breeds

BELGIUM



Rabies-free since 2008
No derogation to rabies vaccination

Mandatory I&R since 2004
1.17 million owned dogs
26,000 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
14 registered native breeds

FRANCE



Rabies-free since 2001
No derogation to rabies vaccination

Mandatory I&R since 1999
7.26 million owned dogs
40,000 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
55 registered native breeds

GERMANY



Rabies-free since
No derogation to rabies vaccination

No mandatory I&R at the Federal level
6.9 million owned dogs
70,000 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
45 registered native breeds

ITALY



Rabies-free since 2013
No derogation to rabies vaccination

Mandatory I&R since 1991
6.9 million owned dogs
50,000 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
16 registered native breeds

SWITZERLAND



Rabies-free since 1998
Derogation to rabies vaccination

Mandatory I&R since 2007
543,000 owned dogs
8,900 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
8 registered native breeds

UNITED KINGDOM



Rabies-free since 1922
No derogation to rabies vaccination

Mandatory I&R in Ir(2012), Wa(2015), En, Sc(2016)
8.5 million owned dogs
51,000 dogs abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a dog
10 registered native breeds

No mandatory I&R
1.6 million owned cats
Unknown number of cats abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a cat
No registered native breed

Mandatory I&R since 2014
1.97 million owned cats
35,000 cats abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a cat
No registered native breed

Mandatory I&R since 2012
12.7 million owned cats
60,000 dogs abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a cat
2 registered native breeds

No mandatory I&R at the Federal level
11.5 million owned cats
Unknown number of cats abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a cat
1 registered native breed

Mandatory I&R since 2013
7.4 million owned cats
80,000 cats abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a dog
No registered native breeds

No mandatory I&R
1.4 million owned cats
11,500 cats abandoned each year
Adoption is the most common way to acquire a cat
No registered native breeds

No mandatory I&R
7.26 million owned cats
40,000 cats abandoned each year
Buying is the most common way to acquire a cat
10 registered native breeds



DOG AND CAT MOVEMENTS

EU LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Dog and cat movements are regulated in the EU by Regulation 576/2013 (non-commercial movement), Directive 2013/31 (commercial movement/trade) and Regulation 1/2005 (transport).

NB: Regarding rabies vaccination, some countries allow the entry into their territory of non-vaccinated young dogs and cats.

NON-COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Non-commercial movement means:

- 1) Fewer than 5 animals moved at the same time;
- 2) The animals belong to a private person and not to an organisation;
- 3) The animals are not transported with the aim of rehoming them.



Minimum age of 8 weeks for transport BUT no valid rabies vaccination before 15 weeks old.



Valid identification with a transponder conforming to ISO 11784.



A valid rabies vaccination (vaccination must be at least 21 days before transport).



Information must be recorded in the Pet Passport, including the name of the pet owner.

COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT (TRADE) REQUIREMENTS



Valid identification with a transponder conforming to ISO 11784.



A valid rabies vaccination (vaccination must be at least 21 days before transport).



A veterinary health certificate issued within the last 48 hours attesting that the animal shows no signs of disease and is fit for transport.



Information must be recorded in the Pet Passport, including the name of the pet owner.



Food every 24 hours



Water every 8 hours



Transport in an approved vehicle. Registration plate entered in TRACES.



Information must be recorded in the TRACES system (a valid holding registration number is required).

CONFERENCE IDENTIFICATION, VACCINATION AND MOVEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE EU

HOW THE PET PASSPORT AND TRACES SYSTEMS CAN BE IMPROVED?



International animal welfare organisation VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), CAROdogg, CAROcat, and the Representation of the German State of Hesse organised a two-day conference on “Identification, vaccination and movement of dogs and cats in the EU: How to improve the Pet Passport and TRACES systems”. The conference was linked to the launch of a report entitled “Identification, Vaccination and Movement of Dogs and Cats in Europe”, prepared by

the European office of VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS in collaboration with Dr Sven Hüther, Director of Planet ID and ISO expert for Germany.

International experts on animal welfare and health, Identification & Registration (I&R), and international movements of pets, together with representatives of the European Parliament, EU Commission and EU Member States, convened to share information on the present situation of I&R across the EU, and to formulate proposals aimed at improving both national and EU legislation.

The speakers emphasised the fact that despite the presence of some useful EU rules aimed at protecting companion animals, both in their country of origin and when travelling to other countries, more should be done.



It was also noted that the rules related to the Pet Passport, which was established in the EU in 2012, should be reformed in order to increase its effectiveness. At present, a Pet Passport is only required when travelling. However, it has been suggested that all companion animals should have one from birth, regardless of their movements, as a lifetime document that would replace national health and vaccination booklets.



Specific proposals have also been produced in relation to the characteristics of the transponders used for the identification of individual animals, which presently contain different sets of information in different Member States. Furthermore, the information is not accessible through a European register. This makes both preventing criminal activities and reuniting lost animals with their families more difficult.

The EU Parliament has repeatedly called for the establishment of a harmonised EU-wide I&R system, but to no avail so far. The speakers and members of the audience therefore asked the European Commission and the Member States to develop specific proposals in order to address these issues, bearing in mind that solutions already exist, at low cost, and that most problems could be resolved by very simple means. We hoped that the report, the presentations and conference conclusions would serve as a useful starting point for discussion and as a further step towards improving the vaccination, identification and movement of cats and dogs across Europe.



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE SPEECHES



The conference was opened by (from left to right) **Friedrich von Heusinger**, Director of the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU, **Helmut Dungler**, President of FOUR PAWS, **Pierre Sultana**, Director of FOUR PAWS European Policy Office, and **Rafael Laguens**, President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE).



Dr Hélène Klein, legislative veterinary officer from DG SANTE, explained that the existing EU animal health legislation on moving dogs and cats into one Member State from another has provided a useful set of rules. These have improved the situation in comparison with the past. Moreover, specific training has been organised in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food Commission initiative, started in December 2013. The public has also been informed of the new rules by means of flyers, posters and a new website. Enforcement is currently the key concern, in order to make the rules effective.

Sophie Duthoit, EU legal research officer in the VIER PFOTEN European Policy Office, presented the history of dog and cat traceability in Europe. The existing system for tracing the commercial movement of cats and dogs (TRACES) across EU borders was originally designed for animals intended for food consumption. The system seems to work well for farm animals, but improvements are needed for companion animals, for example by creating a category for “Dogs” and “Cats”. Currently, these animals are shown under “other mammals”, so there is little transparency regarding the number of dogs and cats transported each year.



Dr Renate Sommer, Member of the European Parliament, presented the European Parliament’s work on pet traceability. The welfare of companion animals still largely lies within the competency of Member States, despite obvious cross-border health concerns. Since 2009, the EU Parliament has asked for harmonisation and improvements in the situation of pets in 38 written questions and multiple resolutions. In its Resolution of February 2016, the European Parliament called once again for a harmonised EU-system of identification and registration for pets. Such a system would mitigate the possibility of fraud for the existing Pet Passports and bring a number of benefits.

The topic of **the failed harmonisation of the identification of companion animals** was then addressed.

First, **Dr Sven Hüther**, CEO of Planet ID, made a presentation on the identification of dogs and cats in the EU: What systems are in place? Can they be improved? He explained that there is no mandatory registration of companion animals at the EU level and no harmonised system of identification of companion animals in the EU. It is therefore the responsibility of the Member States, whose systems vary widely. There should be an obligation on Member States to designate a competent authority for matters relating to the identification of pets, in particular the quality standards that transponder manufacturers must meet.



Then **Dr Nancy De Briyne**, Deputy Executive Director of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), and **Dr Ann Criel**, honorary secretary of the FECAVA, highlighted the role of identification as the guarantee of proper vaccination and animal health. Rabies vaccination should always occur after the identification of the animal. In practice, this is not always the case. The derogation to allow unvaccinated dogs should be abolished for trade, because it is being exploited by the illegal puppy trade. Linking identification and registration to vaccination has many benefits, and it should be done from birth.

Finally, **Dr Paolo Dalla Villa**, Head of Human-Animal Relationship and Animal Welfare Laboratory at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM), addressed the need for identification and registration of companion animals in shelters. He explained that mandatory I&R is important for shelter animals because it promotes individual and collective responsibility towards animals; it provides reliable data on their health and welfare status and history, and it helps with disease surveillance and disaster management. However, dog traceability can only be guaranteed when EU national databases are interconnected with a central EU-compatible information system.



The limitations of the Pet Passport were examined in the second part of the conference.



Joe Moran, Companion Animals Programme Leader/Political Affairs Adviser at Eurogroup for Animals, explained why the Pet Passport is not currently a lifetime document and why it should be mandatory from birth. The Pet Passport should be mandatory for all dogs and cats across Europe, even if the animal does not leave the country. There should be mandatory linking of transponder numbers and Pet Passport numbers in national databases.

Els Vanautryve, Animal Welfare Counsellor at the cabinet of Ben Weyts, Flemish Minister for Animal Welfare, described the Belgian attempt to transform the Pet Passport into a lifetime document. The ECJ case law demonstrates that the European Pet Passport can also be used for other purposes, such as identification and registration of pets. However, the Belgian Government was condemned for this by the ECJ. Mandatory registration and the Pet Passport reinforce each other, ensuring a high level of compliance with European and national legislation. Using the Pet Passport should be part of mandatory registration to ensure traceability.



The question of proof of vaccination in the Pet Passport was then examined by **Karen Bresard**, Associate Director – Product Integrity at the Global Security Group, MSD/Intervet. She explained that numerous cases of counterfeit vaccination stickers have been discovered on Pet Passports from all over Europe. An infected pet may not appear ill but can infect other animals, allowing disease to rapidly gain a foothold in pet populations. Better checks should be conducted by adequately trained veterinarians and competent authorities. Stickers should be printed in a way that makes their duplication difficult.

Taking the Czech Republic as an example, **MVDr. Martina Načeradská**, a veterinarian, explained the conflicts between the Pet Passport and the National Health Booklet. In particular, she showed how the Czech health booklet creates confusion for both veterinarians and pet owners. She emphasised that national “health/vaccination book” systems should be abolished in favour of Pet Passports in order to avoid problems such as the original rabies stickers being stuck in the national health booklet rather than in the Pet Passport.



Finally, the use of the Europetnet system to detect frauds was explained by **Michel Schoffeniels**, President of Europetnet. He explained that the Europetnet database can assist with detecting: transponder number abnormalities; the use of transponders that do not comply with ISO/ICAR rules; cases where the same identification transponder number is present in two different animals. For efficiency in companion animal traceability, Europetnet recommends: the use of the country code in the transponder; mandatory I&R of pets across Europe; Pet Passport details linked and registered with the transponder; and a centralised registration system across Europe.

The last part of the first day focused on *the inclusion of pets in the TRACES system*. **Magdalena Gajdzińska**, intern at the VIER PFOTEN European Policy Office, explained how the TRACES system works and what the issues are. She highlighted that there should be a control system for checking the rabies vaccination and transponder codes on TRACES. The way in which data is entered on TRACES should be harmonised and standardised across Europe. It should be compulsory for Member States to have in place a sufficient number of trained staff to carry out checks on TRACES.



Differences between Member States in the interpretation of Regulation 1/2005 were addressed by **Jeff Segers**, owner of the freight forwarder/customs broker “Skyfast”. He explained that Regulation 1/2005 does not apply to non-commercial movement of pets, but does apply to the commercial movement of pets. However, in practice it is very difficult to apply all the requirements of this Regulation when it comes to pet movements.



Irini Molfessi, President of the Panhellenic Animal Welfare Federation, alerted the conference to the systematic refusal of the Greek national authorities to let NGOs use TRACES to issue TRACES health certificates to shelters that are transporting animals for rehoming. As a result, all rescue animals are transported under the non-commercial scheme (which is illegal).

Specific legislation is required on the movements of shelter dogs and cats for rehoming (as recommended by the European Court of Justice).



Finally, **Sophie Duthoit** of the VIER PFOTEN European Policy Office presented two case studies provided by VIER PFOTEN showing the difficulties encountered in practice with the TRACES system.



The day was then concluded by **Julie Sanders**, Director of Companion Animals at FOUR PAWS, and **Adolfo Sansolini**, independent consultant, Animal Welfare And Trade.

At the end of the first day, the very first CARO Award was presented to **Jacques Grimanelli**, a pioneer of the European system of databases for companion animal identification and registration, Europetnet. The CARO Award was created to

honour personalities or institutions that through their work have contributed to improving companion animal responsible ownership in Europe.



During the second day, a *panel debate between representatives of eight Member States and the EU Commission* took place. The debate, chaired by **Adolfo Sansolini**, was an opportunity to highlight some specific issues encountered by the Member States when using the Pet Passport and TRACES system. In particular, the experts discussed practical field examples on the transport of cats and dogs, and agreed that there is a need for clarification and better recognition of the specific characteristics of these animals within the transport Regulation 1/2005 and the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

The panel consisted of (from left to right):



The Netherlands: **Dr Bernadette Regeer**, Ministry of Economic Affairs; Finland: **Dr Virva Valle**, Finnish Food Safety Agency, EVIRA; Greece: **Irini Molfessi**, Panhellenic Animal Welfare Federation; Austria: **Dr Marie-Christin Rossmann**, Austrian Federal Government; Italy: **Dr Paolo Zucca**, Central Directorate of Health of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy; Czech Republic: **MVDr. Martina Načeradská**, private veterinarian; France: **Dr Rémi Gellé**, ICAD; Belgium: **Dr Eric Van Tiburgh**, Flemish Government; EU Commission's perspective: **Dr Hélène Klein**, DG SANTE, EU Commission.

Also, **Christian Juliusson** from the European Parliament presented the possible solutions at the EU level within the animal health law. He reminded the conference that the European Parliament, and in particular the MEP Marit Paulsen, have constantly called for better traceability of pets in Europe – including stray animals – and has also tried to improve the commercial and non-commercial movement schemes. He presented the new Animal Health Law and the possibility via a delegated act of having mandatory I&R of pets.



The conference closed with *conclusions and recommendations on improving the identification, vaccination and movement of dogs and cats in Europe*, presented by **Pierre Sultana** of VIER PFOTEN's European Policy Office, and with the presentation of roadmaps and concrete measures for EU-wide Identification and Registration of dogs and cats, on behalf of the **CARO EU Canine and Feline Traceability Experts Group**.

FOCUS ON PROMOTING DOG RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

THE OIE REGIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL IN THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

The OIE has launched its “Be his hero” campaign, focused on controlling the stray dog population in the Balkan countries through the promotion of responsible ownership.

The campaign aims to reduce the number of abandoned dogs by encouraging more responsible ownership, not only in the interests of the dogs themselves, but also in the interests of the wider community. It addresses both animal health and welfare issues and public health and safety issues, adopting a positive tone designed to reach the wide and diverse community of people who care about dogs. The slogan “You can tell him anything ... except goodbye” highlights and reinforces the close emotional bond between humans and their ‘best friends’, dogs.

The campaign represents one more step towards tackling the stray dogs issue in the Balkan region. In 2009, the OIE adopted a full chapter dedicated to stray dog population control (part of the Welfare section in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code). And in 2014, stray dogs were identified by the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe as one of the three priority topics of action.



The initiative covers 11 countries in the Balkans and is aimed at the general public, education services, pet shops and private veterinarians. The campaign's number-one target audience is dog owners, but it also addresses future owners, reminding them of the responsibilities involved in owning a dog. Children are a focus, too, because educating them will contribute to a shift in social attitudes towards greater responsibility and respect.

The objective of the campaign is to significantly limit dog abandonment on the streets, which is considered the main source of stray dogs in the region. To tackle the need for owners to be better informed, seven golden rules set out people's duty of care towards their dogs. These include identification and registration, vaccination and regular health checks, birth control, and a call to all dog owners not to abandon their animals.

The National Veterinary Authorities in each participating country are responsible for leading and implementing the campaign at the national level. The OIE has prepared a comprehensive campaign guide to help the veterinary authorities design their action plan together with partners in animal health and welfare, in education and in the media. The OIE is also supporting the campaign at the international level with targeted actions.

For more information, email rsr.bruxelles@oie.int.



FOCUS ON PROMOTING CAT RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

THE FOUR PAWS SWITZERLAND “SPAYATHON”: THE IMPORTANCE TO STERILISE FARM CATS

On International Cat Day, on 8 August this year, FOUR PAWS Switzerland made a “Spayathon” to support the sterilisation of farm cats in the canton of Fribourg

In contrast to most house cats, farm cats (also known as barn cats) are often feral or semi-feral animals commonly kept for catching unwanted rodents. Males often roam freely in search of new partners, while females raise repeated litters. Farm cats are also subject to some risks inherent in outdoor life, such as parasites and diseases. In many cases, they lack basic and regular veterinary care, such as sterilisation and vaccination.

The myth that unneutered cats are better hunters than their neutered counterparts is simply not true. Neutered cats may appear to be lazier than unneutered cats because they no longer have the need to run around chasing food. Therefore, just like any house cat, farm cats deserve not only quality food and fresh water, but also basic and proper veterinary care. To this end, they should also be involved in sterilisation programmes and receive basic vaccination for rabies and feline leukaemia.

In many regions of Switzerland, as in many other places around the world, farmers do not consider themselves the owners of farm cats and therefore will not take responsibility for sterilising and identifying the animals. On International Cat Day, on 8 August this year, FOUR PAWS Switzerland repeated last year’s initiative of distributing free vouchers to farmers to support the sterilisation of farm cats in the canton of Fribourg. Each voucher allows a farmer to have 8 cats sterilised on his/her farm. In October, FOUR PAWS will visit these farms and proceed with sterilisation in collaboration with local veterinarians. In parallel, the team will run an awareness-raising campaign to inform farmers of the benefits of sterilising their animals.





LATEST NEWS ON DOGS

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT MARCELO ENACTS LAW BANNING THE SLAUGHTER OF STRAY ANIMALS

July 2016

The decree establishes measures for the creation of a network of official collection centers for animals and prohibits the killing of stray animals as a method of population control, favoring neutering.

ENGLISH BULLDOG HEALTH PROBLEMS PROMPT CROSS-BREEDING CALL

July 2016

Due to centuries of selective breeding for physical traits, the Bulldog has become so inbred it cannot be returned to health without an infusion of new bloodlines, a genetic study suggests.



CIVIL SOCIETY SAYS STOP TO ANIMAL ABUSE IN MOROCCO

July 2016

With the aim to end this cruelty, the Association of Defence of Animals and Nature (ADAN) will be present at the Convention for Climate Change in Marrakech, to defend its new project on humane management of dog population.

WHAT THE DOG SMELLED: THE SCIENCE AND MYSTERY OF CADAVER DOGS

July 2016

Scientists still can't fully explain why some dogs are so effective at finding human remains

THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT IS LAUNCHING A CAMPAIGN TO REMIND THE OBLIGATION TO IDENTIFY AND REGISTER PETS

July 2016

The application "Anicom" was created by the Catalan Government in 2010. It is an I&R tool which was presented before the general assembly of the "EuroPetNet" in Stockholm last may, and was admitted into the European network.

BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS IN GUIDE DOGS

July 2016

The behavioural reasons why guide dogs sometimes end their working lives early, and what it means for pet dogs.

ABANDONMENT AND EUTHANASIA OF COMPANION ANIMALS, A "MASS BARBARISM"

July 2016

French sociologist Michel Fize thoughts on abandonment and euthanasia of companion animals. According to the author's sources, 100,000 dogs and cats are euthanized each year in France, which means 10 000 per month and over 300 per day.

REPORT ON CENSUS OF STRAY ANIMALS IN THE TERRITORY OF SOFIA MUNICIPALITY

June 2016

The last report on the stray animals population in Sofia has been published. This time the census also includes some information about stray cats and working horses

DOG DETECTS THYROID CANCER IN HUMAN URINE WITH ALMOST 90% ACCURACY, STUDY FINDS

June 2016

According to the research team, from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, a dog has been trained to differentiate benign thyroid disease and thyroid cancer by sniffing human urine samples.



LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Identification, Vaccination and Movement of dogs and cats in Europe: The European systems of the Pet Passport and the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES)

VIER PFOTEN European Policy Office, in collaboration with Dr. med. vet. Sven H  ther, CEO, Planet ID, 2015-2016

Cumulative incidence and risk factors for limber tail in the Dogslife labrador retriever cohort

C. A. Pugh, PhD, B. M. de C. Bronsvort, PhD, I. G. Handel, PhD, D. Querry, BSc (Hons), MSc, E. Rose, BA (Hons), K. Summers, PhD and D. N. Clements, BSc BVSc PhD DSAS(Orth) DipECVS MRCVS, Veterinary Record doi:10.1136/vr.103729, 2016



LATEST NEWS ON CATS

LISTEN TO HER PURR... HOW TO TRAIN YOUR CAT

July 2016

As a new cat-training manual is published, Kathryn Bromwich invites its author to meet reluctant, people-shy volunteer Betty.

ARE CATS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON IN PUBLIC HEALTH?

July 2016

"Cats may eat rats, but they also deter rats from coming near by, as cats mark their territory, not with urine, but by simply rubbing up against things. Even this scent of a cat can make rats scatter".

ISFM EUROPEAN CONGRESS BRINGS 36 NATIONS TOGETHER

July 2016

The International Society of Feline Medicine's European Congress took place recently in Malta from

the 29th June – 3rd July 2016. Over 400 attendees from 36 countries attended the 5-day conference.

STRAY ASSISTED BY VETERINARIANS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TERAMO

July 2016

An agreement has been signed with the University of Teramo to intervene on stray animals who need care. It is a service of medical and surgical assistance for injured animals who do not have an owner (or whose owner is not known) in the frame of the new Veterinary Hospital of the University of Teramo

DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS LOST AND FOUND IN FRANCE IN 2015

July 2016

A report from the central database I-CAD: 58000 companion animals were lost during 2015; one third of them during the summer. Every 20 minutes a dog is lost in France, every 16 minutes a cat is lost. Every month an average of 3437 companion animals arrive in public shelters.

NEW BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS

July 2016

A task force of experts from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV) has just released their 2016 guidelines to best practices to ensure excellent animal care in high-volume spay/neuter programs.

NEW SURVEY FOR CAT OWNERS: OWNER PERSONALITY AND THE NATURE OF CAT-HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

June 2016

This research is hoped to provide further insight into the cat-human relationship, helping to promote optimal wellbeing for cats and happy cat-owner partnerships.

AN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EXPLOSION OF UNWANTED CATS

May 2016

Animal shelters are struggling with an influx of stray cats and kittens because rising temperatures are extending the normal feline breeding season.

WHAT IS YOUR CAT TRYING TO TELL YOU? VETS WEIGH IN

May 2016

Let's face it, cats are mysterious creatures. We dig into some of your feline predicaments.

CAT TRACKING PROGRAM SHOCKS OWNERS

May 2016

Domestic cats fitted with GPS devices roamed as far as three kilometres.



more on
www.carocat.eu

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines for the Management of Feline Hyperthyroidism

AAFP, Hazel C Carney, Cynthia R Ward, Steven J Bailey, David Bruyette, Sonnya Dennis, Duncan Ferguson, Amy Hinc, A Renee Rucinsky, 2016

Follow-up on long-term antiretroviral therapy for cats infected with feline immunodeficiency virus

Oliveira Medeiros S, Abreu CM, Delvecchio R, Ribeiro AP, Vasconcelos Z, et al. Follow-up on long-term antiretroviral therapy for cats infected with feline immunodeficiency virus. J Feline Med Surg. 2016 Apr;18(4):264-72.

THE PET DECEPTION

A CAMPAIGN BY FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS reveals risks of online pet trade. FOUR PAWS is calling on classified ad sites to implement its animal welfare measures

FOUR PAWS has revealed shocking evidence of the illegal pet trade on online classified ad sites – with ads offering for sale illegally imported puppies, banned breeds and endangered and wild caught species. As a result people looking for a pet online could end up with a sick, dangerous or even illegal animal. The international animal welfare organisation has carried out research on 42 classified ad sites across 10 countries world-wide (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa Switzerland and the UK).

A puppy being swapped for a smart phone, a pit bull advertised illegally for professional dog fighting, illegally imported puppies from Lithuania, a pregnant monkey no longer wanted, wild boar being advertised to train hunting dogs, an endangered ring-tailed lemur for sale as a pet and a parrot being swapped for a lap top – are just some of the ads discovered during the research and all caused by a lack of proper regulation of the online pet trade.

“With our international campaign FOUR PAWS wants to stop this “pet deception”,” says Julie Sanders, International Director of Companion Animals Department at FOUR PAWS, “As part of the campaign we have developed an online tool which ranks the more commonly used classified ad sites to show the public which sites could be putting them and pets at risk: www.petdeception.org.” Based on a set of requirements developed by FOUR PAWS, the sites are ranked according to which FOUR PAWS measures they have introduced to protect animals sold on their sites. Additionally, supporters can help the cause by signing an



online petition calling on leading global brands such as eBay Classified Group who own classified ad sites around the world to adopt the animal welfare measures.

Thousands of classified adverts offering pets are listed across various websites every day, with animals being purchased just like products, at the click of a button. Some sites have as many as 200,000 adverts featuring pets for sale online at any one time, with over 4 million viewers. Classified ad sites benefit from the high click through rate and the resulting advertising revenue.

However many of these sites, even those owned by trusted brands such as eBay Classifieds Group, can be poorly regulated and therefore offer little protection for the pets being advertised and for the people looking online to find a pet.

“We have developed a set of recommended measures and are calling on global brands to lead the way in protecting animals and people by adopting them,” adds Sanders

The measures include classified ad sites: having to verify sellers identity, so that there is no anonymous selling on the sites for animal sales, to help stop illegal activity running pre checks of all adverts to remove illegal, misleading or inappropriate adverts before they go live ; having mandatory information in the ad on the animal

for example important care, health and documentation details to help the buyer make an informed decision when buying a pet having in place and enforcing a list of animals which are banned from being sold on the site including primates, endangered and wild caught animals, underage animals and pregnant animals to help address animal welfare issues





UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

SEMINAR: “EUROPE ON THE PATH OF RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP – REQUIREMENTS FOR A NATIONWIDE TRACEABILITY OF DOGS AND CATS”

September 6th,

Berlin, Representation of the State of Saarland to the Federal Republic

The seminar is a follow-up event of the conference which took place in Brussels on the subject in June “Identification of pet animals in the EU pet passport and TRACES”. It is organised by the Animal Welfare Officer of the state of Saarland and TASSO, with the partnership of VIER PFOTEN Germany, Europetnet, CAROdog and CAROcat.

The content and objectives of the event are: to propose arguments for a harmonized Identification and Registration of companion animals in Europe and in Germany; to discuss the initiative of the Saarland for a nationwide system of R&I; to gain insight into the concept of interdisciplinary expert group of the CARO network (EU Canine and Feline traceability) for a EU-wide system including the existing national public and private databases.

Dr. Renate Sommer, MEP and rapporteur of the relevant European Parliament initiative will hold the key note speech.

41ST WSAVA CONGRESS

27th-30th September

Cartagena, Colombia

The World Small Animal Veterinary Congress will held its 41st session.

1ST EASTERN EUROPE VETERINARY CONFERENCE

October 6th-8th,

Belgrade, Serbia

EEVC is a new small animal veterinary conference on education needs of veterinarians in Eastern European region.

4TH OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

December 6th-8th,

Guadalajara, Mexico

The conference will focus on the inclusion of OIE standards in the negotiation of trade agreements.

UPCOMING DOG AND CAT DAYS

COMPANION ANIMAL DAYS

INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS' DAY

August 16th

Created by the International Society for Animal Rights

PET MEMORIAL DAY

September 11th (second sunday in september)

Recognizing the importance of remembering our cherished pets, the International Association of Pet Cemeteries (IAPC) has designated

the second Sunday in September as National Pet Memorial Day.

10TH RABIES DAY

September 28th

The Rabies Day has been created by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).

DOG DAYS

NATIONAL DOG DAY (US)

August 26th

Founded in 2014 by Celebrity Pet & Home Lifestyle Expert and Author, Colleen Paige

CAT DAYS

FERAL CAT DAY

October 16th

NATIONAL CAT DAY (U.S)

October 29th

BLACK CAT DAY November 17th



FOUR PAWS is an Austrian-based international animal welfare organisation with offices in ten European countries, South Africa, the USA and Australia. FOUR PAWS was founded in 1988 in Austria, and in 2003 the organisation became FOUR PAWS International. Since 2007, FOUR PAWS has had a European Policy Office in Brussels which aims to strengthen animal welfare at the European level by influencing European policies and the legal framework. With the aim of consolidating the consideration of companion animals and the responsible ownership principle in EU policies, in 2010 the office created the CAROdog platform, followed in 2013 by the CAROcat platform, and has established the EU Traceability Experts Group. Both platforms and websites are financed exclusively by FOUR PAWS.



Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale" (IZSAM) is a public health body belonging to the Italian National Health System. IZSAM provides scientific and technical support to the National and Regional Governments in veterinary public health, promoting an integrated approach to the sustainability of the animal health and welfare and food safety system. Its headquarters and main laboratories are located in Teramo, in the Abruzzo region. IZSAM manages one OIE collaborating centre, four OIE reference laboratories, one FAO reference centre, four national reference centres and three national reference laboratories, and the Italian National Animal Identification and Registration System. IZSAM has been one of the initiators of the CAROdog and CAROcat projects.



As part of the DG SANTE (formerly DG SANCO) of the EU Commission, the Animal Welfare Unit works for the improvement of animal welfare at the EU level.

The Animal Welfare Unit is a partner of the CAROdog and CAROcat projects and has representatives on the CARO editorial board.



The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of veterinary organisations from 38 European countries. FVE strives to enhance animal health, animal welfare, public health and the protection of the environment by promoting the veterinary profession. FVE is a partner of the CAROdog and CAROcat projects and has representatives on the CARO editorial board.



The European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD) aims to communicate scientific developments in feline infectious diseases, and to establish a rational basis for cat disease prevention and control across Europe. It aspires to define a code of practice that reflects the present state of knowledge. ABCD is a partner of the CAROcat project and has representatives on the CARO editorial board.